

Editorial

Editors: Prof. Peter Schreier
and Prof. Hans-Ulrich Humpf



P. Schreier (above)
and H.-U. Humpf (left)

Molecular Nutrition & Food Research – Past and Future Aspects

In 2007, WILEY is celebrating its 200th anniversary. It is usually the opportunity to look back and take stock, and the publisher will no doubt do this on many different occasions. We wish to reflect this by taking a look at the history and development of food research. This discipline has its roots in the 19th century, so it not possible to look back over 200 years. At that time, during industrialization there was an increasing number of damaging food scandals which forced Germany's chancellor Bismarck to release one of the world's first food legislations in 1879. In subsequent years, food chemistry developed as an independent discipline; before, food-related topics came under medical, pharmaceutical or chemical research. The historical orientation towards food control continued over many years, until the 1990s. Only in the last ten to fifteen years has food chemistry undergone a change of paradigm from the more or less pure analytical orientation to a multi- and interdisciplinary subject among the Life Sciences. This has led to the situation where at present food-related biological and chemical reactions are extensively investigated at the cellular and molecular level, and correlations between structure and biological function are being investigated in greater depth and scope. Thus, food research has become an integrated part of the Life Sciences.

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This development encouraged WILEY-VCH to create Molecular Nutrition & Food Research in 2004 with the aim of covering important aspects such as health, nutrition, safety, biochemistry and chemistry in one scientific journal.

From the beginning, MNF developed very well indeed, which can clearly be recognized by the first impact factor of 2.071. Highlights from last year are certainly the Special Issues 'Tea and Health', 'Bioinformatics of Protein Allergenicity' and 'Thermally Processed Foods: Possible Health Implications'. Volume 2007 starts with the present Review Issue covering the topics 'Cyanobacteria', 'Tea Flavonoids', 'Diet and Cancer', 'Allergy' and 'Ochratoxin A'. A number of Special Issues are planned for 2007 on, e.g. 'Hormonally Active Compounds in Food' (Guest Editor: M. Metzler, Karlsruhe, Germany); 'Berry Fruits' (Guest Editor: G. Duthie, Aberdeen, UK); 'Cocoa and Chocolate Flavonoids' (Guest Editor: F. Steinberg, Davis, USA).

We would like to cordially thank our authors, the Senior Editors, the members of the Editorial Board and the reviewers, as well as, last but not least, the coworkers from WILEY-VCH for their skilful support. Together they have contributed to the success of MNF in the past year.

The rapid progress reveals that our strategy to combine the interests of various fields of molecular nutrition in MNF has found great acceptance not only among the authors but also the readership in general. We will continue this strategy in future and, according to the current trend, guide MNF with stronger focusing on 'health/risk-benefit' topics.

Encouraged by the positive feed-back, we are looking forward to further successful cooperation and wish everybody a successful and healthy New Year.

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